Association of Indian Universities
Research CommitteeMinutes

An online meeting of the AIU Research Committee was held on June 12, 2020 at 11:30 a.m.on Microsoft Team Platform. The following members were present:

Prof M MSalunkhe   Chairman
Vice Chancellor
Bharati Vidyapeeth,Pune
Maharashtra &
President, AIU

Prof TejPratap   Member
Vice Chancellor
Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture & Technology &
Vice President, AIU

Prof N V Ramana Rao   Member
Director
National Institute of Technology, Warangal

Prof P Manisankar   Member
Vice Chancellor
BharathidasanUniversity,Tiruchrapalli

Prof Prem Kumar Kalra   Member
Director
Dayalbagh Educational Institute
Dayalbagh, Agra

Prof N J Pawar   Member
Vice Chancellor
Dr D Y Patil Vidyapeeth, Pune

Prof Anamik Shah   Member
Vice Chancellor
Gujarat Vidyapeeth
Ahmedabad-380 014(Gujarat)

Prof S L Soni   Member
Director, NIT Uttarakhand
Srinagar-246 174Garhwal, (Uttarakhand)

Dr (Mrs) Pankaj Mittal   Member
Secretary
Secretary General, AIU

DrAmarendraPani   Secretary
Joint Director & Head, Research
AIU

Prof M MSalunkhe, President, AIUChaired the Meeting. Dr (Mrs) Pankaj Mittal, Secretary General, AIU welcomed the members and informed that the Meeting of the Research Committee is usually held once in a year. For the first time the meeting is being held for the second time within the current financial year and hoped for more meetings in future to strengthen the research profile of AIU. The members were very appreciative of the efforts of AIU in recent past and felt that AIU should continue taking proactive steps in promoting higher education. It can also consider taking up projects like "Impact of COVID on Research Activities", which could be done through a group of member universities by giving one subject each to one university. The universities need to Connect – Disconnect-Reconnect by following a flexible approach, which could be a combination of online, classroom and field experience. There is a need to promote skilling of students by embedding skill education with the regular education.

Thereafter, the agenda itemswere presented by DrAmarendraPani, Joint Director and Head of Research Division.

AGENDA

1. To confirm the Minutes of the Research Committee Meeting held on September 12, 2019.

                                                         Confirmed

2. To consider the Action Taken Report on the Minutes of the Research Committee Meeting held on September 12, 2019.

    On Item No 19 of ATR relating to Research Study on "Student Developing Index: Conceptualizing

and Indentifying Relevant Parameters", the Committee resolved that a Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof Bhushan Patwardhan, Vice Chairman, UGC shall be constituted to develop indices. Dr RajanWelukar, Vice Chancellor, AURO University, Surat, Prof S.L. Soni, Director, NIT, Uttrakhand, Dr Bhagwan Prakash, Adviser, Election Commission of India, Dr Pankaj Mittal, Secretary General AIU shall be the members and Dr Amarendra Pani, Joint Director & Head of Research Division, shall be the Convenerof the Committee.

3. To report the collaboration with Embassy of Turkey in promoting Turkey Scholarship Programme for Indian students by facilitating member universities in organizing an event during January 27-29, 2020.

Noted &Approved

4. To report the collaboration with Indian Chamber of Commerce in organizing 2nd Globalized Education Forum at Hotel The Park New, Delhi on December 05, 2019

Noted &Approved

5. To report the successful organization Workshop on "Global trends in International Higher Education: what is (and should be) the role of India?"

Noted &Approved

6. To report the collaboration with Embassy of Brunei for facilitating AIU Member University participation in Higher Education Expo 2020 at Darussalam organized during February 08-09, 2020

Noted& Approved

7. To report the successful organization of 13th Higher Education, Skill and Livelihood Conclave- Future of Higher Education and Skill 2030 in collaboration with ASSOCHAM.

Noted &Approved

8. To report the successful organization of the Conference on International Conference on the Theme - 'Transcending National Boundaries – Diversity & Inclusion: Critical for Effective Internationalization'

Noted &Approved

9. To report the collaboration with Central University of Rajasthan in organizing a Two-day's National Workshop on "Reservation Policy implemented in Central Universities" March 26-27, 2020.

[Note: A request was received from Central University

of Rajasthan seeking AIU collaboration in organizing the above Workshop during March 26-17, 2020. The Research Division collaborated and took up all preparatory work. The CUJ postponed the Workshop due to COVID-19 lockdown.

Noted

10. To report the AIU Collaboration with Groningen Declaration Network in organizing 9th Annual Meeting on the theme "Using Innovation to Disrupt: Creating a Sustainable Digital Ecosystem for Learners." At the Hotel Oberoi, New Delhi during April 15-17, 2020.

A request was received from Groningen Declaration Network seeking AIU collaboration in organizing the above meet during April 15-17, 2020. The Research Division took up all preparatory work. GDN postponed the Meet due to COVID-19 lockdown.]

Noted

11. To report the Collaboration with Mother Teresa Women's University (MTWU), Kodaikanal for organising a one-day workshop/seminar on the theme 'Women Upliftment and Higher Education Prospects'.

A request was received from Mother Teresa Women's University (MTWU), Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu seeking AIU collaboration in organizing the above meet. Necessary preparatory was done by Research Division including disseminating information to member universities for inviting participation but could not be organized due to COVID-19 lockdown

Noted

12. To report the Collaboration with the Embassy of United Arab Emirates in facilitating the AIU member University Participation in "Think Science World Fair 2020" scheduled to be organized in UAE.

A request was received from the Embassy of United Arab Emirates seeking AIU collaboration in promoting Think Science World Fair 2020 scheduled to be organized in UAE during mid-April and facilitating the Member universities participation in the Event. Necessary preparatory was done by Research Division including disseminating information to member universities for inviting participation but could not be organized due to COVID-19 lockdown

Noted

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13. To report the collaboration with Quality Assurance Strategic Planning Institutional Research (QASPIR), UK in organising a one-day Online Workshop for Faculty members of Indian Universities on "*What you need to know and prepare for a successful transition of your curriculum online*" on March 31, 2020.

> *A request was received from QASPIR, a nongovernmental organization in United Kingdom engaged in quality assurance in Higher Education, seeking AIU collaboration for organizing a cost based online workshop on the above theme for the faculty members of Indian Universities. With a view to engage the faculty members of AIU member universities during the lockdown period and providing them training on online curriculum delivery, collaboration was extended to QASPIR and all necessary action was undertaken for inviting participation from faculty members. Initially, the course fee was high. After, a few rounds of negotiation the fee was brought down to Rs. 1500 for individual participants and Rs 1350/- each for a group registration of more than 30 members. The Workshop received unusually high number of participants. Due to limited number of seats two additional workshops on same version and content were organized from April 01-03, 2020 and April 15-17, 2020]*

> *Approved*

14. To report the collaboration with QASPIR in conducting an online course "Developing Digital Practitioners" for the faculty members of AIU member Universities free of cost.

> *Following the successful conduct of three online workshops for faculty members and based on good feedback from participants a request was received from QASPIR to organize the above course on cost basis. QASPIR was informed that the Policy mandate of AIU does not allow us to collaborate and promote cost-based courses and was requested to make it free of cost. An agenda item with explanatory note providing the details regarding the matter was submitted to Governing Council in its 358th Meeting held on May 20, 2020. The Governing Council approve the collaboration in conducting the course free of cost. Necessary action is being taken to conduct the course as per the schedule provided by QASPIR.*

> *Resolution : The Committee appreciated the initiative and also suggested that in view of the increasing online activities, collaboration with other Indian service providers engaged in promoting online education may also be explored.*

15.   To report the organization of a Webinar on Impact of Higher Education in the Post Covid Economy in collaboration with FICCI on May 15, 2020.

Noted &Approved

16.   To report the successful collaboration with Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA Academy) in organising a one-week online course on "Community University Engagement: Moving towards Engaged Teaching, Research and Service" May 18- 22, 2020.

Noted &Approved

17.   To report collaboration with Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence (SSSUE) in organising a Global Education Conference 2020 during May 21-23, 2020.

A request was received from the Sri SathyaSai University for Human Excellence (SSSUE) seeking AIU collaboration in organising a Global Education Conference 2020 for promoting human values through education. Necessary preparatory was done by Research Division including disseminating information to member universities for inviting participation. The event could not be organized due to COVID-19 lockdown]

Noted

18.   To report the collaboration with German Centre for Research and Innovation (DWIH) New Delhi, for organizing "Falling Walls Lab in India" in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur scheduled on August 22, 2020.

Noted &Approved

19.   To report establishment of Indian Network for Internationalization of Education (INIE) for promoting Indian Higher Education Abroad and facilitating the interaction with other such Associations and Networks in the World.

In the meeting held with Dr Esther D Brimmer, CEO, NAFSA at World Bank Office on January 13, 2020 it was discussed that there are a few countries where such Networks are there which are supporting the Internationalization activities and facilitating the Institutions and International Educators to enter into collaborations and Networking with other institutions of different countries. Association of Indian Universities is the organisation which initiated activities on Internationalization in its initial stage. Now, a strong need has been felt for establishing such a Network. An agenda item proposing to establish Indian Network for Internationalisation of Education (INIE) with draft concept paper was placed before the Governing Council in its 358th Meeting held

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on March 20, 2020. The GC authorized President AIU to constitute a committee for developing a details concept note on the matter. The Committee was constituted and the first meeting of the Committee was held through online on May 06, 2020. Discussion was held on the concept paper and some additional inputs for enriching the concept paper were received from the members. Incorporating the inputs, the concept paper was finalized. It was decided that the INIE will be registered under the Section 8 of Company Registration Act 2013. The Network will work at arm's length of AIU and initially the office of the Network will operate from AIU

Resolution: *The Committee appreciated andapproved the initiative of establishment of INIE by AIU*

20.   To Consider following Research Studies to be under taken by the Research Division in the session 2020 in collaboration with selected member universities.

1. Strategies for promotion of Internationalization of Higher Education

2. Internationalization of Higher Education: A Comparative Policy Analysis of India, China and USA

3. Revisiting the Quality Assurance Parameters for Institutions of Higher Education as a new normal in post COVID-19.

4. A study of Paradigm shift in Higher Education and future Skill requirements.

5. Sectoral Preparedness of Higher Education for responding to the Needs of Industry 4.0 and 5.0.

6. An analysis into the policy dimensions of Institutional autonomy with special reference to existing and proposed (Draft National Education Policy) Regulatory Architecture and its impact on enhancing the efficiency of higher education.

7. Higher Education in Post COVID Era: Developing a New Model of Blending Learning.

8. An Assessment of PanditMadan Mohan Malaviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching (PMMMNMTT) as Scheme for enhancing the quality of teaching and teacher training.

9. An Assessment of Training Needs of Educational Administrators for determining policy measures.

10.   An Evaluative Study of Role of Universities in Community Development through Extension Services. A Critical Evaluation of the status of implementation of Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) in Indian Higher Education Institutions.

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Resolution: The Committeeappreciated and approved the idea of undertaking the studies in collaboration with member universities having expertise and adequate infrastructure. It was suggested tha:

Projects at No. 1 and 2 shall be merged and named "Promoting Internationalization of Higher Education: Strategic Interventions".

Project mentioned at 4 & 5 shall be merged and entitled "Creating future ready students: Industry 4.0 compliance".

Project 6 shall be dropped till the release of New Education Policy by the Government of India.

Project No. 8 shall be dropped unless it comes as a sponsored project from MHRD of UGC.

Project 9 may be renamed as "Developing online modules for training of educational administrators".

Project 10 to be renamed as "Contribution of universities to community development".

It was recommended that AIU shall give an open call for proposals, for inviting Expression of Interest from member universities. The Ceiling of Funding for the collaborative projects shall be a maximum of Rs. 5.00 lakhs. The fund allocation may be doneafter assessing the financial requirements based upon the nature of the project. The selection of universities and allocation of funding to the projects shall be made by a Committee to be constituted by the President AIU. One Research Committee member may be associated with each project for the mentoring and monitoring of the said project.

21.   To consider organizing the following National Workshops/Seminars in 2020 (Regular activities) in online mode if the current situation of CORONA Pandemic prevails.

    i. National Workshop on Emerging Trends in Information Technology in   University Management

    ii. National Workshop on Management of University Administration

    iii. National Workshop on Research Methodology in Social Sciences

    iv. National Workshop on Examination Reforms in Higher Education

    v. National Seminar on Women's Studies in India

All the Five events are the regular activities of the Research Division. These capacity building programmes are regularly organized as per the mandate of AIU mentioned in its MoA.

As per MHRD Guidelines, one event is to be held in one of the North Eastern States. In case of the non-feasibility of organization of the events in conventional pattern, these will be organized in virtual/online mode.

Resolution: The Committee recommendedthat in view of the Corona Pandemic, all these activities shall be organized through online mode with no financial implications.

22. To consider organising a Roundtable on "Exploring the concept of using Eligible Enrolment Ratio (EER) in Higher Education as a parameter".

The Secretary General, informed that a research paper on Eligibility Enrolment Ratio (EER) has been sent to Economic and Political Weekly (EPW) for publication, which will be published in a day or two. The full report after examining data of 10 countries is also ready, which can be discussed in a roundtable of Vice Chancellors.

Resolution: The members appreciated this and approvedthat one or two Roundtables of Vice Chancellors shall be organized to discuss and deliberate on the report.

23. To consider organising a Roundtable for Newly Appointed Vice Chancellors.

Earlier this Roundtable was being organized by Research Division regularly. Since 2010, this was discontinued which was decided to be resume In case of the unfeasibility of organizing the events in conventional pattern, these will be organized in virtual/online mode.

Resolution: Resolved that an Academy for training of Vice Chancellors and Academic Administrators shall be established by AIU for organizing the Roundtable of Newly appointed Vice Chancellors and training of the educational administrators including Deans and Directors, Registrars, Deputy Registrars, Assistant Registrars, Finance Officers, COE, Public Relation Officers and Placement Officers etc. A proposal in this regard may be brought before the Research Committee in the next meeting. This academy could also be in the form of consortium of universities.

24. To consider the proposal for organizing online Anveshan: Student Research Convention for the financial year 2020-21.

In order to strengthen the research in institutions of higher education by identifying young and emerging breed of researchers with research aptitude and talent Anveshan: Student Research Conventions are organized at Zonal and National level. Anveshan was launched in 2008. Since then, it has become one of the most popular and

prestigious programmes of the Research Division, receiving country wide appreciation from the students, research scholars and universities at national level. Every year five Zonal and one National Convention is organized in which innovative research projects in Five areas viz. (i) Basic Sciences, (ii) Engineering & Technology, (iii) Health Sciences and allied subjects, (iv) Agricultural Sciences and Allied areas, (v) Social Science, Humanities Management, Commerce and Law are invited from students ranging from undergraduate to doctoral degree level. The projects are evaluated by a panel of three experts in each area. The assessment is conducted as per the guideline and structured criteria developed by the Research Division and approved by the Governing Council of AIU. The selected Projects of Zonal level are finally presented at National level and the winning projects are awarded with cash prizes with certificates and mementos]

Resolution: The Committee recommended that in view of the current crisis, in place of zonal conventions, a three day online National Research Convention called "National Anveshan Online" shall be organized. Certificates and awards shall be given to the winners.

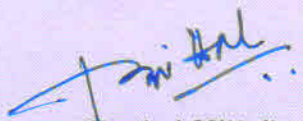25. Any other Item with the permission of the Chair

Under any other items following two activities were proposed.

1. The first one was to collaborate with QASPIR UK in conducting a survey of preparedness of Indian Higher Education Institutions for online learning.

2. Proposal for organising a series of Roundtables of Vice Chancellors on various discipline domains such as, Agriculture, Law, Engineering & Technology, Health Science and Social Science & Humanities focused on Indigenous knowledge.

Resolution: 1. The Committee approved the proposal of conduct of the aforementioned online survey in collaboration with Quality Assurance Strategic Planning Institutional Research (QASPIR). AIU and QASPIR shall prepare a combined Reportbased on the survey.

2. The roundtables shall be taken up by the proposed Academy for Training of Educational Administrators.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.

(Pankaj Mittal)
Secretary General

(M M Salunkhe)
President